



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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September 30, 2003

TO: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller 

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – DEVEREUX
FOUNDATION, CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA CHILDREN'S
GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Devereux Foundation Group Homes (Devereux). Devereux is a licensed agency with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation). Devereux is a 100-bed facility located in Santa Barbara County that provides care for children ages 7-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Devereux was providing services for 23 Los Angeles County DCFS children and 67 children from various other California counties.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to verify that Devereux was providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues. The review included an evaluation of Devereux's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with seven children placed with Devereux at the time of the review. The interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by Devereux, and to ensure its adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Overall, Devereux was providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. However, Devereux needs to make multiple repairs to its facility; ensure all children's files have documentation that is adequate and current; and allow residents to contact their families unless otherwise stipulated by the court.

Attached is a detailed report of the findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management has agreed to provide DCFS with a written corrective action plan within fifteen business days of this report. We thank Devereux's management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM:PM:CC

Attachment

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer

**DEVEREUX FOUNDATION, CALIFORNIA
Santa Barbara Children's Group Homes
P.O. Box 1079**

Santa Barbara, California 93102

Phone: 805-448-5605

**License Numbers: 425800581, 425800629, 425800628, 421704142, 425800617,
421703551, 425800627, 425800319**

Rate Classification Level: 12

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Seven

Comments:

The Santa Barbara Children's Group Homes of Devereux Foundation, California (Devereux) provides services to children and adolescents who are developmentally delayed and have been diagnosed as having moderate to severe emotional disturbances such as autism and attention deficit disorder.

The campus is situated in a lightly populated area near the ocean and consisted of residential cottages, an administration building, gymnasium, private school, cafeteria, and other facilities. The grounds were attractive and well maintained.

The residential cottages were also nicely maintained and individually decorated. Most of the cottages had nice bulletin boards, well-maintained furniture, and a home-like atmosphere. Children are allowed to personalize their bedrooms with pictures and other items. All beds had a full complement of linens that were clean and in good condition. In general, the cottages were clean and neat, but some improvements were needed.

Sunan

In bedroom three, the bottom portion of the door to the bathroom was peeling.

Kellogg

The hallway carpet was in poor condition and the microwave oven was in need of cleaning.

Miramar

There were holes in the wall of bathroom three. In addition, the hallways and some of the bedrooms needed painting.

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Playa Vista

The hallway carpet was badly stained and the paint on the linen closet door was chipped. The staff bathroom walls needed painting and the floor just inside the threshold of bedroom two needs repair. Flies were a problem because there were no screens on the windows.

Alpha

Some of the window screens were bent.

Alikoy

Carpet in the staff office was worn and needed cleaning and the walls in bedroom five needed painting.

Casa Renee/Sirotty

There was insufficient lighting in some of the bedrooms and bathroom two. Also, the ceiling in bathroom two needed to be cleaned.

Sirenas

Bathroom two had mildew on the ceiling and in bedroom five there were small pieces of Formica which have been chipped off the built-in furniture. The side of the dishwasher needed a new face board to cover the insulation and the wall behind the dishwasher and sink was damaged. There were two holes in the dining room wall not covered by MDF board.

Del Sol

Some of the planks on the side of a shed behind the cottage were deteriorating, exposing a few bent and rusty nails which were a safety hazard. Another hazard noted was a pothole on the pathway from the cottage to the shed that makes the footing uneven. There were also concrete blocks near the shed which constitute a tripping hazard. The north wall of the cottage had some brown discoloration and needed to be painted.

The door to bedroom three and the closet doors needed to be repainted. The baseboard and floor in bathroom five were deteriorating, and the toilet seat was chipped. In bathroom seven, the tile floor was warped and the wall around the mirror in bathroom eight has holes.

There was ample opportunity for recreation and activities at Devereux. In addition to games and toys in the cottages, there were places outside where the children could play in safety.

Meals were provided through a food service vendor. The children eat breakfast and dinner in their cottages and, on school days, they eat lunch at the school. Cottages maintained a small supply of food for snacks and breakfasts which was properly stored and dated.

Recommendations

- 1. Devereux management develop a plan to make necessary repairs to the facility. These areas are identified in the attached addendum.**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for review of documents: Eight

Sample size for interviews: Seven

Comments:

Eight children were selected to be interviewed and their files were reviewed. Prior to the actual interviews, one child chose not to participate.

All of the residents at Devereux had the required initial assessments in their files and met the facility's population criteria as outlined in the program statement.

Seven of eight children had current Individual Support Plans (ISPs). The ISPs were similar to Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) but prepared in greater detail and depth. Input was from the child's interdisciplinary team. At any time, an interdisciplinary team meeting can be called to discuss ways to modify a child's ISP. One child did not have an ISP.

Seven out of eight children have timely and comprehensive Quarterly Reports in their files that addressed all of the elements required in the Statement of Work and provide excellent information to placing agencies.

Devereux offers its residents a wide array of services and all eight children are receiving services as outlined in the program statement.

Recommendations

2. Devereux management maintain Individual Support Plans and Quarterly Reports in each child's file.

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for review of documents: Eight

Sample size for resident interviews: Seven

Comments:

All eight of the residents attended Devereux's on-grounds private school. Seven out of eight children had the required Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) in their files and each resident had current report cards/progress reports on file.

The residents reported that they are taught and practice daily living skills such as personal hygiene and performing household chores in their cottages. All age-appropriate children received training in independent living/emancipation. One resident had an off-campus job.

All residents felt that their staff cared about and were supportive of their academic efforts. In addition to school, the children received on average an additional four hours per day of cognitive stimulation if they participated in Day Rehabilitation services. Those not eligible for Day Rehabilitation services received cognitive stimulation in other structured activities provided by the agency.

Recommendations

3. Devereux management maintain copies of Individualized Education Plans in each child's file.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for review of documents: Eight

Sample size for resident interviews: Seven

Comments:

Devereux provides its residents with an outstanding recreation/activity program. They have a gymnasium, state-of-the-art weight room, a large swimming pool, athletic fields, and facilities where creative arts can take place. Residents' artistic works are displayed throughout the campus and sometimes sold to the public.

Residents take part in activities both on and off campus. Some of the off campus activities involved trips that required a great deal of coordination and staffing. The wide range of activities included such things as music camp, nature beach camp, Hip Hop lessons, and learning how to cook. Students from the University of California, Santa Barbara and other members of the community sometimes participate in these activities. In addition, residents are encouraged to pursue their own interests.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

Sample size for resident interviews: There were ninety residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the twenty-three Los Angeles County residents on psychotropic medications.

Comments:

Medication logs were properly maintained for all twenty-three Los Angeles County residents being prescribed psychotropic medication. Documentation indicated that twenty-one of the children were recently seen by a psychiatrist for a review of their medication and evaluation of their progress in therapy. Although Devereux staff is certain that the remaining two children were recently evaluated by a psychiatrist, there were no notes in the files to verify this.

Twelve of the children had current authorizations from the court, eight requests had been submitted but not enough time has elapsed for a response from the court, and three children did not have current court authorizations.

Recommendations**4. Devereux management:**

- a. Retain documentation of children's visits to the psychiatrist in their files.**

- b. **Maintain current court authorizations for the administration of psychotropic medication.**

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Seven

Comments:

The residents expressed overall satisfaction with their placement at Devereux. They reported that their cottages were comfortable and expressed some satisfaction with the food. Although some reported minor dissatisfaction with different aspects of the food service, all residents reported that the meals were healthy and included fresh fruits, vegetables, milk, and meats.

Some of the residents described staff as “nice” and “helpful” and reported having at least one favorite staff member they trusted and felt comfortable with. An appropriate system of discipline was in place at Devereux and, for the most part, the residents felt it was fair. All of the children were able to describe how it worked and knew what kinds of behaviors were acceptable or unacceptable. A few residents reported that the discipline was unfair, but those few did not want any discipline.

The residents stated that their personal rights were respected in the areas of religion, health care, and privacy.

One child felt unsafe because of a new resident in her cottage. The new resident was adjusting to Devereux and her behavior was unpredictable. This was discussed during the exit conference with management who was aware of the new child’s behavior and were monitoring it closely.

One child reported that he was unaware of his right to refuse psychotropic medication however, a review of his record revealed that he had often refused such medication. Most of the children taking psychotropic medication had a basic understanding of what their medications were expected to do for them.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

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Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

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Sample size for resident interviews: Seven**Comments:**

Devereux provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The agency supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The residents are provided with a fair minimum weekly allowance. A majority of residents at Devereux have emotional or behavioral difficulties making it hard for them to earn extra money. However those residents who can are encouraged to earn extra money by either working on or off campus.

Devereux provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

Children have the opportunity to maintain a life book if they wish.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Devereux Foundation, California
Santa Barbara Children's Group Homes
Addendum
Facility and Environment Findings
Residential Living Houses**

Sunan

- Repair the door in bedroom three which leads to the bathroom.

Kellogg

- Replace the hallway carpet.
- Clean the microwave oven in the kitchen.

Miramar

- Patch and paint the holes in bathroom three.
- Repaint the hallways and some of the bedrooms.

Playa Vista

- Replace the stained hallway carpet.
- Repair the linen closet door.
- Paint the walls of the staff bathroom.
- Repair the floor just inside the threshold of bedroom two.
- Replace window screens.

Alpha

- Replace bent window screens.

Alikoy

- Replace the carpet in the staff office.
- Paint the walls in bedroom five.

Sirenas

- Remove the mildew from the ceiling in bathroom two.
- Repair the chipped Formica built-in furniture in bedroom five.
- Install a new face board on the side of the dishwasher.
- Repair the wall behind the dishwasher and sink.
- Patch the holes in the dining room and finish installing MDF board.

Addendum

Page Two

Del Sol

- Remove the rusty nails from the bike shed behind Del Sol.
- Repair the pothole in the pathway leading from the cottage to the bike shed.
- Remove the broken concrete blocks near the bike shed.
- Clean the north wall of the cottage to remove the discoloration.
- Paint the closet doors and entry door to bedroom three.
- Replace or repair the baseboard and floor in bathroom five.
- Replace the chipped toilet seat in bathroom five.
- Replace the warped floor in bathroom seven.
- Repair the wall around the mirror in bathroom eight.